Scheme to train youth

3080. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether targeting ten million tourists arrivals in India by 2010 that promises to generate two lakh jobs, Government has decided to launch a short term training programme under the "Earn-while you Learn" scheme to train youth so that they can work as student volunteers;

(b) whether this scheme is targeted primarily at students pursuing graduation and post-graduation courses and aged between 18-25 years; and

(c) if so, when this scheme is likely to be implemented and whether this has been a major achievement in the tourist department?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The scheme titled "Earn while you learn" is a short term training programme of 21 days to encourage youth to work as student volunteers in tourism industry. A college going student who is pursuing a graduation course or is a graduate and who has attained the age of 18 years but is not more than an age of 25 years shall be eligible for the training programme. The first programme under the scheme was conducted from 24th December, 2007 to 13th January, 2008.

Medical Tourism in Kerala

3081. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes formulated by Government to give a big boost to tourism including medical tourism in the State of Kerala in near future;

(b) the details of tourism projects approved but not executed so far; and

(c) the status of each project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Integrated development of tourism in the country is a continuous process. Ministry of Tourism has been providing Central Financial Assistance on the basis of project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations including the State of Kerala under the following schemes:

(i) Product/Infrastructure development of destinations/circuits

(ii) Large Revenue Generating projects

(iii) Fairs/festivals/events

(iv) Information Technology

Proposals which are received in accordance with the scheme guidelines, are processed on inter-se priority basis and funds released subject to availability.

The Ministry of Tourism also promotes tourism products including medcial tourism in overseas markets through the webside, brochures, Compact Discs, participation in travel fairs and distribution of publicity material.

During 2007-08, the following project proposals, which were complete as per guidelines have been sanctioned for Central Financial Assistance to the Government of Kerala:

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Development of Kodungalloor heritage Tourism circuit	361.75
2.	Development of Pathirmanal Bio-park	499.61
3.	Destination development of Wayanad	201.72
4.	Development of Mangalam Dam as a tourist destination	461.67
5.	Destination development of Kottakkunnu in Malappuram	440.25
6.	Development of Malampuzha in Palakkad as a tourist destination	482.04
7.	Setting up of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition at Kozhikode (Kerala)	1000.00
8.	Development of Nila Heritage Tourism Circuit (Bharathapuza River) in Malappuram and Thrissur District	606.40
9.	Development of Eco-Tourism programme in Gavi, Pathanamthitta District	20.05
10.	Documentation of Fifty Traditional Archetictural Structures of South India	25.00
11.	Creation of websites with virtual tour for 8 properties	25.82
	TOTAL:	4124.31

During the 10th Five Year Plan, Ministry of Tourism sanctioned projects worth Rs. 13,809.94 lakh for development of tourism in the State of Kerala.

Execution of projects is the responsibility of the State Government of Kerala. Ministry of Tourism monitors physical and financial progress of the sanctioned projects through site visits and review meetings from time to time.

Shortage of trained professionals in hospitability sector

3802. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the shortage of trained professionals in the hospitability sector and due to that it is adversely affecting our tourism industry;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government-run Institutes of Hotel Management and Institutes of Food Craft are currently faced with the problem of brain drain; and

(c) if so, what steps Government has taken/proposes to take to prevent this brain drain and to promote hospitability sector in India?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI ABMIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the findings of a study commissioned by the Ministry of Tourism in 2004, the gap between